transferred the business of 17 estates in the 'concession area' as a going concern to a new Private Limited company called Kannan Deven Hills Plantations Company Private Limited (KDHP) immediately after the close of business as on 31st March, 2005. The transfer has been funded through a mix of equity, bank loans and subordinated debt from Tata Tea. The usage of land would be governed by the provisions of the lease deed and shall be exercised in accordance with all legal safeguards as necessary. The legal issues involved in the transfer of land rights are to be examined by the concerned State Governments.

Liberalisation of norms for concessional duty on crude palm oil

2944. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has liberalized certain norms for concessional duty on crude palm oil as per media reports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Central Government has revised range of total carotenoid content (as beta carotene) from 500mg/kg-2500mg/kg to 250mg/kg-2500mg/kg and acid value from 2 to 4 for crude palm oil, for being eligible for the customs duty of 80%. This, however, will be subject to actual user condition *i.e.* for manufacture of refined oil, refined palmolein, vanaspati, bakery shortening or inter-esterified fats only.

Production and export of spices

2945. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity and value of each of the spices produced in the country during the last three years;

(b) what is the quantity of spices consumed locally in the country;

(c) what is the total quantity of spices exported alongwith its value during the last three years with individual breakup of these spices; and

(d) what steps are being taken to boost the exports in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) According to the latest available data, the total production of spices in the country during the years 2000-01 and 2001-02 was 2873.18 thousand tonnes and 3172.71 thousand tonnes respectively. According to the latest available data, production of major spices in the country is as below:—

Name of the Spice	Production (in Thousand Tonnes)		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Pepper	63.67	62.44	63.95(P)
Cardamom	14.5	17.8	15.6(P)
Chilli	983.7	1069.0	896.9(P)
Ginger	288.0	318.6	NA
Turmeric	714.3	562.8	573.9(P)
Garlic	247.1	386.3	411.4(P)
Coriander	231.3	319.4	164.9(P)
Cumin	128.5	196.8	NA
Fennel	26.1	26.0	NA
Fenugreek	45.9	127.9	NA
Clove	1.5	1.6	NA
Nutmeg	2.3	2.5	NA
Saffron	0.004	0.008	NA

(P) Provisional Source: Department of Agriculture and Cooperation

(NA) Not available

(b) The data for domestic consumption of spices in the country is not maintained. However, according to rough estimates, the domestic consumption (estimated production less estimated exports) of major spices in the country during the year 2001-02 was 29,29,507 tonnes.

(c) Item-wise export of spices, both in quantity and value, during last three years is given below:—

	2002-03		2003-04(E)		2004-05 (April-February) (P)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty	Value	Qty.	Value
Pepper	21,609	178.88	16,700	143.51	12,875	110.73
Cardamom (Small)	682	47.07	690	33.01	560	20.68
Cardamom (Large)	1,450	20.57	800	11.07	840	10.22
Chilli	81,022	315.15	81,500	355.11	124,000	450.96
Ginger	8,461	23.97	5,000	23.40	12,200	51.40
Turmeric	32,402	103.38	34,500	127.52	38,500	141.74
Coriander	18,065	55.65	21,000	71.04	32,250	78.87
Cumin	10,422	93.26	6,700	49.84	12,950	95.32
Celery	3,960	12.25	4,400	13.89	3,900	12.41
Fennel	4,160	17.84	5,200	21.43	6,700	23.49
Fenugreek	13,193	25.51	7,500	16.61	12,700	24.52
Other seeds (1)	14,920	36.17	10,000	23.25	10,550	24.52
Garlic	1,539	6.99	3,500	13.21	1,875	4.93
Nutmeg & Mace	1,381	28.47	1,450	27.32	1,175	20.77
Vanilla	25	22.26	26	36.06	16,2	23.13
Other spices (2)	23,897	73.83	24,000	76.63	14,500	55.90
Curry Powder	8,492	68.94	7,600	65.08	6,900	57.03
Mint Products (3)	13,589	565.58	11,250	425.05	5,675	247.48
Oil and Oleoresins	4,839	390.94	4,750	372.06	5,000	412.14
TOTAL :	264,107	2086.71	246,566	1905.08	303,166	1866.29

(1) Include Aniseed, Bishops weed (Ajwainseed), Dillseed, Poppyseed, Mustard etc.
(2) Include Tamarind, Asafoetida, Cinnamon, Cassia, Kokam, Saffron etc.
Source: Spices Board. (E) Estimated (P) Provisional

(d) Steps taken to boost export of spices include post harvest improvement through training and infrastructure development; trade promotion; extending support for upgradation of technology; introduction of high tech spice processing, setting up/upgradation of laboratories, accreditation of units in Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)/Hazard Assessment and Critical Control Process (HACCP)/International Standards Organisation (ISO), packaging development, printing of business brochures, business tours abroad, sending business samples abroad; support for organic farming of spices; award of Spice House Certificate and Indian Spices Logo for popularising good manufacturing practices, good hygienic practices and branded spice products.

Products having export potential from Bihar

2946. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the products of Bihar which have export potential;

(b) the exports made of products of Bihar during the last two years and the current year so far;

(c) the total earnings made as a result thereof; and

(d) what are the future plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN) (a) to (d) Identification of products having export potential is a continuous process. major products from Bihar that are being exported are cereals, vegetables, fruits, minerals, pharmaceuticals etc.

As per the information available with the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the total value of exports of various products from Bihar during 2002-03, 2003-04 and in 2004-05 (upto February, 2005) are as follows:-

Year	Value (in Rs.)
2002-03	3781216194
2003-04	8303938963
2004-05 (upto February, 2005)	4456465248